

Study Request For Housing At Arsenal

By ROBERT W. RICHARDS

Washington, Nov. 26. —(Copley Press Leased Wire).—An application by the ordnance center at the Joliet arsenal for approval and funds for construction of 200 housing units for officers, enlisted personnel and civilians remains under consideration by the department of the army, it was learned today.

Nor is any action expected on the request for at least another month and possibly longer, according to the army information desk at the Pentagon. But a spokesman said the certification of the Joliet-Braidwood area as critical for housing and rentals won't necessarily bear on an official "yes or no" when it comes.

THE JOLIET arsenal commander several months ago asked army ordnance for an allocation of funds—reported as \$2,000,000, tho that figure could not be confirmed here—to construct housing of a permanent type on government owned land under the Wherry amendment to the defense housing act.

The arsenal request noted that reactivation of the ordnance plants had brought an influx of military and civilian personnel for which there were not suitable dwellings in the Joliet area, already taxed by expanding defense industry.

The construction would go to a private contractor, the army would own and operate the housing, just as it does at established posts thruout the country. The type of quarters would conform to army standards.

THE APPLICATION was not related to that of the Joliet and Braidwood associations of commerce for a "critical designation" for housing, which the interagency finally approved last Nov. 6. Under this phase of the defense housing act, private credit controls can be relaxed to build a certified number of housing units to accommodate defense plant workers under special criteria.

In the case of the Joliet-Braidwood-Will county area, and including Steger in Cook county, the committee eased controls for 200 new units, 150 for rent and 50 for sale. If private financing is not forthcoming within 60 days, a new application can be made for the loan of federal funds.

Arsenal dwelling units, on the contrary, would be built with army appropriations.